

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 04531 070702Z

10

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-15 CPR-02 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 022396

R 070624Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2773

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY BONN

UNCLAS TUNIS 4531

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TS

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

1. ON AUGUST 3 PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA CELEBRATED HIS SEVENTIETH BIRTHDAY AT MONASTIR. DURING CEREMONIES IN WHICH PRESIDENT RECEIVED BEST WISHES OF NATION'S CADRES, HE ESTABLISHED A NEW MEDAL, "THE ORDER OF THE MERIT OF BOURGUIBA", AND PRESENTED FIRST ON TO PRIME MINISTER NOUIRA. THE MEDAL IS INTENDED FOR THOSE WHO GAVE MERITORIOUS SERVICE TO COUNTRY DURING FIGHT FOR INDEPENDENCE AND IN COUNTRY'S STRUGGLE FOR PROSPERITY AND DIGNITY. PRESIDENT CALLED NOUIRA "MY RIGHT ARM" AND SAID THAT NOUIRA HAD WORKED HARD AS PRIMIN TO "SAVE NATION FROM BANKRUPTCY AND RE-ESTABLISH CONFIDENCE, ENTHUSIASM AND COHESION AMONG PEOPLE" AND THAT HE WOULD GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS "MY COMPANION IN BATTLE AND PRISON".

2. DURING SAME CEREMONY PRESIDENT ALSO SIGNED LAW ADOPTING NEW FOUR-YEAR PLAN (1973-76) AND DECORATED OTHER OFFICIALS WITH VARIOUS RIBBONS. CEREMONY ATTENDED BY ALGERIAN MINISTER OF INTERIOR MEDGHRI (REPRESENTING BOUMEDIENE) AND FRG MINISTER
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OF COOPERATION EPPLER WHO PRESENTED BOURGUIBA WITH GIFT FROM

CHANCELLOR BRANDT. MOROCCAN REPRESENTATIVE OF KING HASSAN, MINISTER OF HIGHER EDUCATION DEY OULD SIDI BABA, ARRIVED LATER IN DAY AND MET WITH BOURGUIBA. EDITORIAL IN FRENCH LANGUAGE L'ACTION AUG 6 STATED PRESENCE OF ALGERIAN AND MOROCCAN REPRESENTATIVES AT BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS WAS REASSURANCE FOR FUTURE OF MAGHREB.

3. BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS WILL CONTINUE FOR TOTAL OF TEN DAYS, WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF TWO DIFFERENT GOVERNORATES PRESENTING PROGRAMS IN HONOR OF PRESIDENT EACH DAY.

4. NO PRESIDENTIAL AMNESTY LIST WAS PUBLISHED ON PRESIDENT'S BIRTHDAY AS HAS BEEN CASE IN PAST YEARS.

5. MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA WAS GIVEN PROMINENCE IN LOCAL PRESS.
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NNN

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Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
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